



English: Personal Experiences

Jennifer Childs

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I was born in Surrey and I've got two older sisters and a younger brother. I don't remember particularly learning any English as such but I remember reading books with my parents.

My mother always liked to correct us on how we spoke. That's probably the only thing that I would say that I do remember about language as such. We weren't allowed to say yeah, we had to say yes. I would say I had a very sort of southeast um probably quite BBC English at the time. And it was things, we weren't allowed to call her mum, we had to call her mummy.

And it was yeah, and just, just dropping letters out of words, was you know, butter had to be butter not 'butta' and things like that. I find I do tell my children to say things in a certain way and I don't even mean, you know I've said it before I've even thought and I, I think it does, it is a lasting thing because I, I don't think you should judge people by how they speak. But people do, realistically I think people do judge you how you speak.

When I left school I went and worked in an insurance company. There was quite a few people there with Wiltshire accents. Which was, which, I mean it's a really nice accent, I really like it um but people do judge people by how they speak and I think that it seemed like there were, people thought they were farmers so if you made friends with people and you introduce them to other friends that you had, it was thought they were, they weren't as good or weren't as educated I don't think.